3/8/78

Dear Charles Nelson,

Thanks for the reassurances of your letter of 3/4. It might surprise you to know how many of the college assassination courses are irresponsible.

Glad you have been in touch with Dave Wrone.

The name Richard Lester did not register. The story does. I think you will hear no more of it. You should not, in any event because there is nothing to it.

Some years ago I loaned the FBI a perfect bullet a friend of mine had found in a Dealey Plaza planter. On its return the agent read me a statement saying no more than what I had told the FBI, that it could not have been fired during the assassination.

People do these ghoulish things. The bullet my friend found had been fired into a water tank or cotton wadding. It was unblemished.

Assume Lester's story to be true. It still can't have any connection with the assassination.

My recollection of the accounts this bring back to mind is that he is quoted as saying he found the bullet near the tracks. Not exactly the same as this but take this account" railroad property along Elm Street. There is no way for that bullet to have gotten there during assassination firing without leaving other traces, like a hole in the fense or damage to the concrete structures. I doubt if it was possible even then without the rifleman being up on one of the taller buildings to the east. The sheriff's building? The courts building - and not seen leaving? With a rifle?

The area in which he says he found it is pretty well shielded. That day cars also were parked close by if not between the place he found it and the places from which a shot could have come.

If Lester is straight the most likely explanation is that somebody was playing a practical joke.

In addition to the story you quote there were wire stories. I have a shorter AP version and probably more I'm not taking time to search out.

Of course I'd like to be wrong and for there to be some way of connecting another shot with the crime that will be believed, the solid proof of it to now not having been believed.

The FBI won't do it. They'll limit or have limited to the markings on 399 because they work not from fact but from assumptions. In this case the assumption the Oswald rifle fired all the shots. With that bullet is would have been physically impossible, if that rifle had been used in the crime. The FBI knew this. It was playing games.

Best wishes,